



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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USACE beach renourishment project remains on schedule at Padre Island, Texas

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (Jan. 25, 2011) – Work to renourish Padre Island beaches remains on schedule after the Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company dredge “Texas” sustained damage while sailing to the project site.

“Completing our mission of keeping waterways open for navigation in time for turtle nesting season is a top priority,” said Alicia Rea, a project operations manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District. “Maintaining a balance between development and minimizing the impact on our environment is in keeping with our commitment to remain good stewards of our environment.”

The Corps has requested the contractor’s dredge “Alaska” arrive on site to complete work in time for spring break and the turtle nesting season. The large ocean-going suction cutterhead dredge “Alaska,” currently performing work in New Orleans, is expected to arrive within six to seven days to keep the beach nourishment project on schedule.

“Upon arrival, the ‘Alaska’ will perform work on the Brownsville Ship Channel, completing all beach nourishment at Padre Island,” said Rea. “Following completion of the dredging and beach nourishment, the dredge will move to port Mansfield to complete dredge work there.”

According to Rea, pipe laying on South Padre Island will be completed in the next two to three days, with approximately 350,000 cubic yards of dredged material to be placed on Padre Island beaches.

“This beach nourishment project, called beneficial use, seeks to employ environmentally and economically responsible ways to utilize dredged materials to benefit local communities,” said Rea. “Beach renourishment will allow us to improve eroded coastlines through the placement of this dredged material.”

The Texas General Land Office and City of South Padre Island partnered to contribute \$2,400,000 in a non-federal cost share initiative to renourish approximately one mile of beach using beach-quality sand harvested from the dredging process.

The Corps awarded a contract Dec. 8 to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company to dredge the Brownsville Ship Channel in Cameron County, Texas. Work is scheduled to be completed by March 1 in order to avoid both the turtle nesting season and spring break.

For more news and information, visit the Galveston District Web site at www.swg.usace.army.mil. Find us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/GalvestonDistrict, or follow us on Twitter, www.twitter.com/USACEgalveston.

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